

HANDSWORTH WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES

WARD: Handsworth Ward	DATE:4 th December 2023
VENUE/ VIRTUAL: Handsworth	START/FINISH TIMES: 11.00 to 12.45
COUNCILLOR/S: Cllr Quinnen	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 17
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lesley Bannister, Carla Belle and Panikos Panayiotou	VISITING SPEAKER(S):

Special Handsworth Ward Meeting

1. Introductions – Cllr Quinnen

2. Notice of recording – Chair to advise that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt.

3. M.U.G.A – Panikos Panayiotou

- Presentation on the proposal for a Football Foundation funded project which proposed the installation of a play zone easy access area on the existing multi use games area in Handsworth park which has been submitted to Planning Committee for consideration on the 22nd of December 2023 .(Copy of the presentation is part of this document pack)
- Additional information- An online consultation survey had 610 replies which had been positive plus a further two online consultations and a face-to-face consultation with stakeholders. The feedback they had received had been positive from groups under the age of 18.

Resident's comments, concerns and issues

- Have other areas in the neighbourhood being considered for example the unused site at Jubilee allotments/Gardens. Note *this is technically outside of the Handsworth Ward*.
- Residents questioned what was meant by open access, as there would be locked gates and a computerised booking system. Which they stated was not in the original planning application.
- Charging for access and usage not mentioned in the original planning application.
- How would income generated from the site be used?
- Residents felt they hadn't been consulted with many residents saying they weren't aware of the proposal until recently.
- Residents didn't agree with the change of use, they were concerned that competitive sport would be replacing Play.
- Male dominated sport will be replacing children's play was also a widely held view.
- Bookable sporting activity will lead to people from outside the Ward using the site at the cost/loss of free access space for children's play which all the residents at the meeting were against.
- Jubilee allotments/ gardens- An available space and in need of development.
- Residents and Councillor Quinnen agreed that investment within the park was needed but not at the expense of play.
- Residents suggested that proposals for change needs to align with the current Handsworth ward plan.

After a full and frank discussion, the residents at the meeting wished their opposition to the current proposal to be recorded and forwarded by Cllr Quinnen to the Planning Committee .

Objected to

- Locking gates, the changes of access to the space was not mentioned in the planning application.
- Revenue stream booking system will therefore exclude local children from a public park and access to play.
- Loss of a Play Park for a competitive sports zone, with male gender bias sports.

Residents were not against the investment of additional facilities within Handsworth Park or at the nearby Jubilee Gardens, they objected to the change of use and the effect that would have on play provision for local children.

Action: Cllr Quinnen asked Lesley Bannister to draft a statement for the Planning Committee that Cllr Quinnen would submit on behalf of the Ward

FINAL DRAFT